

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02178 051134Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2528
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2178

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PLO, SY
SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN COMMENTATOR ADVOCATES GENEVA CONFERENCE
WITHOUT PLO ATTENDANCE

1. ON ITS WEEKLY "PALESTINIAN ISSUES" PAGE DAMASCUS DAILY
AL-BAATH CARRIED COLUMN BY MUHAMMAD IZZAT DARWAZA, OCCASIONAL
COMMENTATOR ON PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS, ARGUING THAT THE PRICE
FOR ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA (CHANGING THE NATIONAL CHARTER AND
RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL) WAS TOO HIGH TO PAY. HE STATED THAT
SINCE ALL THE ARAB STATES RECOGNIZED NEED FOR CREATION OF
PALESTINIAN STATE, THE PLO SHOULD NOT OBJECT IF THE ARAB
STATES ATTENDED THE GENEVA MEPC WITHOUT ITS PRESENCE SINCE
THIS WOULD NOT FORCE PLO INTO "ADVANCE RECOGNITION" OF ISRAEL
OR CAUSE IT TO "LOSE ANYTHING" IF THE TALKS FAILED.

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2. FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT OF COLUMN:

BEGIN QUOTE: I THOUGHT IT HELPFUL TO REITERATE MY
POINT OF VIEW IN THIS ARTICLE, AT TIME OF FRESH
EFFORT TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF SO-CALLED MIDEAST CRISIS BY
MEANS GENEVA OR OTHER CONFERENCE. I DEEM PLO SHOULD REJECT
RESOLUTION 242 AND SHOULD REJECT PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA

OR OTHER CONFERENCE, WHETHER THE BELLIGERENT STATES PARTICIPATE AT THIS OR OTHER CONFERENCE WITHOUT PLO, BECAUSE POSITION OF THESE STATES DIFFERENT FROM PLO, SINCE CHARTER UPON WHICH PLO WAS ESTABLISHED REQUIRES IT TO STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF ALL PALESTINIAN SOIL AND RETURN DISPLACED TO IT. NEW PNC DID NOT SAY IN ITS RESOLUTIONS IT OPPOSES ARAB STATES EXERTING THEIR EFFORTS WITHOUT PLO IN ORDER ACHIEVE ALL THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH RESPECT TO RIGHTS AND HOMELAND OF PALESTINIANS. WHAT APPEARED IN THESE RESOLUTIONS IS REJECTION AND FOILING OF EVERY SETTLEMENT THAT CONCLUDED AT EXPENSE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. PALESTINIANS SHOULD NOT GET UPSET WITH ARAB STATES GOING (TO GENEVA) AND NEGOTIATING WITHOUT PLO, JUST BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT JEWS WANT. THIS SHOULD NOT UPSET THEM IF THERE IS PAN-ARAB INTEREST IN IT, AND PAN-ARAB INTEREST IN IT IS CLEAR AS FAR AS I BELIEVE. FOR, ON ONE HAND, PALESTINIANS WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO ADVANCE RECOGNITION OF JEWISH STATE AND WOULD NOT BE LED TO REVOKE THEIR CHARTER; AND WOULD, ON OTHER HAND, OPEN FRONT DOOR TO LIBERATE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS OF PALESTINE AND OTHER THAN PALESTINE (SYRIA AND EGYPT) AND TO BRING ABOUT WHAT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS CAN BE BROUGHT ABOUT; AND THEY WOULD NOT LOSE ANYTHING, BUT WOULD BE IN POSITION OF ALERTNESS AND ON THEIR TOES. ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE IN PALESTINE HAS BECOME A GENERAL ARAB SLOGAN SUPPORTED BY COLLECTIVE RESOLUTION OF RABAT SUMMIT. SETTING UP AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE DOES NOT PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF A TYPE OF FEDERATION BETWEEN IT AND JORDAN AFTER ITS ESTABLISHMENT. THIS SHOULD EVEN BE, AND I BELIEVE IT WILL BE, THE CASE, AND THING DESIRED AFTER THAT

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IT SHOULD INCLUDE SYRIA AND LEBANON FIRST, THEN ALL ARABS, (ISRAELIS) MAKE A PRETEXT OF INSISTENCE UPON NEED FOR PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE OR AT NEGOTIATIONS, AND REJECT THIS VERY STRONGLY UNLESS PLO AMENDS ITS CHARTER AND RECOGNIZES THEIR STATE IN ADVANCE. THEY SUPPORTED IN THIS BY SEVERAL STATES, AT TOP OF WHICH IS THEIR EVIL PROTECTOR, THE U.S. ANOTHER FRANK WORD I WANT TO ADDRESS TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS. I AM AMAZED AT THEIR INSISTENCE UPON NEED FOR PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE OR IN OTHER NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE I BELIEVE THEY ARE IGNORANT OF THE FACT THAT JEWISH STATE, WHICH IS A BASIC PARTY, CANNOT ACCEPT THIS PARTICIPATION UNLESS PLO AMENDS ITS CHARTER AND RECOGNIZES IT IN ADVANCE, AND THAT US SUPPORTS IT VERY STRONGLY IN THIS, AND THAT OTHER STATES MAY FIND THIS JUSTIFIED AND SAY: "HOW COULD STATE OF ISRAEL NEGOTIATE WITH ORGANIZATION WHOSE CHARTER CALLS FOR ITS ELIMINATION, AND CALLS FOR STRUGGLE UNTIL ITS ELIMINATION. I WOULDN'T LIKE TO THINK THAT ARAB GOVERNMENTS WANT PLO TO AMEND ITS CHARTER AND RECOGNIZE JEWISH STATE IN ADVANCE WITH NO ASSURANCE THAT THIS WOULD SETTLE MATTER. THERE NO SIGN THAT ZIONIST

STATE AND US ARE READY TO PAY PRICE IN RETURN FOR THEIR REQUEST TO PLO TO AMEND ITS CHARTER AND RECOGNIZE THE ZIONIST STATE. SO, THIS INSISTENCE, THINGS BEING AS THEY ARE, REINFORCES ZIONIST PRETEXT, AND CLOSES DOOR TO GENEVA CONFERENCE AND TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS AT SAME TIME. THIS IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH EAGERNESS SHOWN BY SOME ARAB STATES (TO RECONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE). PALESTINIANS HAVE TURNED DOWN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 AND PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE OR IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON IT IN 1967, 73 AND 74, AND THEY HAVE RESTATED THIS REJECTION THE OTHER DAY (MARCH 1977) THROUGH PNC. THERE IS GREAT HOPE THAT NEAR, TACTICAL, AND FAR STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES OF INSISTENCE DO NOT GO UNNOTICED BY ARAB GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT ARAB GOVERNMENTS REFRAIN FROM THIS INSISTENCE AND UNDERTAKE TASK AND DUTY WITHOUT GETTING PLO INTO TROUBLE.

3. COMMENT: COLUMN'S APPEARANCE ON "PALESTINE ISSUES"
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PAGE RATHER THAN EDITORIAL PAGE PERMITS AIRING THIS VIEW WITHOUT APPEARANCE OF SARG ENDORSEMENT. FACT THAT IT PERMITTED TO APPEAR AT ALL, HOWEVER, INDICATES SARG MAY BE KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN IN EVENT DEADLOCK OVER PLO ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA THREATENS TORPEDO TALKS BEFORE THEY BEGIN.
MURPHY

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